

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-156. (Cancelled).

157. (New) A method for treating female urinary incontinence comprising,

inserting a shaft having a curved portion percutaneously into a body and through a vaginal wall of a patient;

associating a sling assembly end with an end of the shaft subsequent to the shaft extending through the vaginal wall; and

withdrawing the shaft to place at least a portion of the sling assembly under a urethra of the patient.

158. (New) The method of claim 157, wherein the sling assembly comprises an element for receiving a distal end of the shaft.

159. (New) The method of claim 157 comprising inserting the shaft via an abdomen of the patient.

160. (New) The method of claim 157, wherein the shaft comprises a channel for receiving the sling assembly end.

161. (New) The method of claim 160 comprising locking the sling assembly end in the channel.

162. (New) The method of claim 160 comprising unlocking the sling assembly end from the channel subsequent to withdrawing the shaft.

163. (New) The method of claim 157 comprising disassociating the sling assembly end from the shaft end subsequent to withdrawing the shaft.

164. (New) The method of claim 157, wherein the sling assembly comprises a sling.

165. (New) The method of claim 157, wherein the sling assembly comprises a sling and a pouch enclosing at least partially the sling.

166. (New) The method of claim 165 comprising removing the sling from a pouch subsequent to sling assembly placement.

167. (New) The method of claim 157, wherein the end of the shaft is a distal end.

168. (New) A method for treating female urinary incontinence comprising,

inserting a shaft having a curved portion percutaneously into a body and through a vaginal wall of a patient;

associating a sling assembly end to an end of the shaft subsequent to the shaft extending through the vaginal wall; and

withdrawing the shaft to pull at least a portion of the sling assembly through the vaginal wall to place at least a portion of the sling assembly under a urethra of the patient.

169. (New) The method of claim 168 comprising inserting the shaft via an abdomen of the patient.

170. (New) The method of claim 168 comprising disassociating the sling assembly end with shaft subsequent to withdrawing the shaft.

171. (New) The method of claim 168, wherein the sling assembly comprises a sling.

172. (New) The method of claim 168, wherein the sling assembly comprises a sling and a pouch enclosing at least partially the sling.

173. (New) The method of claim 172 comprising removing the sling from the pouch.

174. (New) A method for treating female urinary incontinence comprising,

inserting first and second shafts, each having a curved portion, percutaneously into a body and through a vaginal wall of a patient;

associating a first end of a sling assembly with the first shaft;

associating a second end of the sling assembly with the second shaft; and

placing at least a portion of the sling assembly under a urethra of the patient.

175. (New) The method of claim 174, wherein the step of inserting comprises inserting the first shaft and then inserting the second shaft.

176. (New) The method of claim 174 comprising inserting at least one of the shafts via the abdomen.

177. (New) The method of claim 174 comprising withdrawing at least one of the first and second shafts to place at least a portion of the sling assembly under a urethra of the patient.

178. (New) The method of claim 174 comprising disassociating the first and second assembly ends from the shafts subsequent to withdrawing the shafts from the body.

179. (New) The method of claim 174, wherein the sling assembly comprises a sling.

180. (New) The method of claim 174, wherein the sling assembly comprises a sling and a pouch for enclosing at least partially the sling.

181. (New) The method of claim 180 comprising removing the sling from the pouch.

182. (New) A method for treating female urinary incontinence comprising,

inserting a shaft having a curved portion percutaneously into a body and through a vaginal wall of a patient;

associating a sling assembly with an end of the shaft; and

withdrawing the shaft to place at least a portion of the sling assembly under the urethra.

183. (New) The method of claim 182, wherein the associating comprises interfitting the sling assembly in a channel located at an end of the shaft.

184. (New) The method of claim 182, wherein the associating comprises releasably interfitting the sling assembly in a channel located at an end of the shaft.

185. (New) The method of claim 182 comprising dissociating the sling assembly from the shaft subsequent to withdrawing the shaft from the body of the patient.

186. (New) The method of claim 182, wherein the sling assembly comprises a sling.

187. (New) The method of claim 182, wherein the sling assembly comprises an elongated extension located at an end of the sling assembly.

188. (New) The method of claim 182, wherein the sling assembly comprises an aperture located at an end of the sling assembly.

189. (New) The method of claim 182, wherein the sling assembly comprises a sling and a pouch for enclosing at least partially the sling.

190. (New) The method of claim 189, wherein the pouch comprises an opening intermediate to first and second ends of the sling assembly.

191. (New) The method of claim 189, wherein the pouch is substantially flat.